

Assertion of Islamism and Dissent : Interactions between America and Political Islam

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Political Islam traverses through a difficult path in the Middle East.. This paper problematizes the role of America in the making of the Middle East more violence prone and vulnerable. This paper contends disjunction between political Islam and America have not started off with Samuel Huntington's thesis alone, but much prior to that. No doubt 9/11 is a watershed event in that direction.. Barring examples of clash of civilizations, America and the Middle East have started facing islands of dissent in the form of militant Islam or political Islam.

This paper looks into the origin and profile of radical Islamist groups; e.g. Hamas, Hezbollah, Muslim Brotherhood etc. This paper probes the issue of dissent in its own soil as well as in exile. This paper contends , American presence acts as a catalyst in the growth of militant Islam. Though origin of militant Islam lies deep in its core. Rentier-authoritarian nature of its polity paves the way for the outgrowth of militant Islam. Ruptures in the contours of their political actions led them to take a different position, which can be termed as anti-American vis-à-vis anti-Western. This presentation will assess,, how these groups use political Islam as a political weapon to get their aims and objectives fulfilled. Ruptures went deep down more so in the context of American pro-activism in Iraq in 2003; which deepens the cut made by Americans themselves.

1979 Islamic Revolution is a very important event in the political life of the Middle East. Foundational role of Islamic rule demanded by Muslim Brotherhood, first Islamic revolution in Iran, alleged Iranian links with Hezbollah , Hezbollah's inspirational effect/impact on Hamas reflect a single continuum . In this backdrop Iranian nuclear programme adds fuel to the fire. Moreover, hardliner in power, Iran and America are always in conflict. Iran-American imbroglio is no way a recent phenomenon. It is exactly an up side down situation; which is Iran's change over situation from an ally of America to enemy of America ; depicted as 'Axis of evil'. This paper looks for a missing link and delves into the politics of possibility to resolve the crisis situation.